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Biden says he doesn't know whether Israel is holding up peace deal to influence 2024 U.S. election



Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu holds signs as he addresses the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden had terse words for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, and said he didn't know whether the Israeli leader was holding up a Mideast peace

deal in order to influence the outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

"No administration has helped Israel more than I have, none. None, none."

And I think Bibi should remember that," he said, referring to the Is-

raeli leader by his nickname. "And whether he's trying to influence the election, I don't know but I'm not counting on that."

Biden, in a rare appearance in the White House press briefing room, was responding to comments made by one of his allies, Sen. Chris

Murphy, D-Conn., who told CNN this week that he was concerned Netanyahu had little interest in a peace deal in part because of U.S. politics.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

costa linda
beach resort

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

PREMIUM
BRANDS
★★★

Biden says he doesn't know whether Israel is holding up peace deal to influence 2024 U.S. election

Continued from Front

"I don't think you have to be a hopeless cynic to read some of Israel's actions, some of Prime Minister Netanyahu's actions, as connected to the American election," Murphy said. Biden and Netanyahu have long managed a complicated relationship, but they're running out of space to maneuver as their views on the Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance. For Biden, a diplomatic deal would help resolve a deep divide among Democrats over the war and shore up support for Vice President Kamala Harris, making one fewer global conflict for her to manage should she win next month. Netanyahu has his own political concerns closer to home: His far-right coalition would abandon him if he stopped the war, and he could lose power and have to face his own legal problems. And Israel has been decimating Hezbollah's leadership, so there is little incentive to stop now.

Biden has long pushed for a diplomatic deal, and he and his aides have indicated several times over the past few months that such an agreement was close. But it never seems to mate-



President Joe Biden speaks during a surprise appearance to take questions during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Friday, Oct. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

rialize, and in some cases, Netanyahu has publicly resisted the prospect while U.S. and Israeli officials continue to talk in private about eking out a deal. Just last week, the U.S., France and other allies jointly called for an immediate 21-day Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire, and expected Israel to welcome if not fully endorse the plan. Instead, Netanyahu publicly rejected it, telling leaders gathered for the U.N. General Assembly that Israel would "continue degrading Hezbollah until all our objectives are met."

Israel has pressed forward on two fronts, killing top Hezbollah leaders and pursuing a ground incursion into Lebanon and conducting strikes in Gaza that killed

dozens, including children. And the nation has vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack this week. Oil prices rose 5% Thursday as concerns mounted that Israel would hit Iranian oil facilities as payback; a surge in gas prices so close to the election would be a blow to Harris, particularly after strong economic news Friday.

Biden said there had been no decision yet on what type of response there would be toward Iran, though "I think if I were in their shoes, I'd be thinking about other alternatives than striking oil fields."

He pushed back against the idea that he was seeking a meeting with Netanyahu to discuss the response to Iran. He isn't, he

said. "I'm assuming when they make a decision on how they're going to respond, we will then have a discussion," he said.

But Netanyahu has grown increasingly resistant to Biden's public charm offensives and private pleading, prompting the president's more assertive pushback. And Biden has in turn publicly held up delivery of heavy bombs to Israel and increasingly voiced concerns over an all-out war in the Middle East.

Despite their long acquaintanceship, the two are not close or particularly friendly. When Biden was visiting Israel as vice president under Barack Obama, he and other U.S. officials were taken aback by an Israeli government announcement of new Jewish settlements in the West Bank, something the administration strongly opposed.

Nevertheless, Biden has remained consistent in his support for Israel's defense and security. In the aftermath of the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attacks in Israel, he hugged Netanyahu on the tarmac of the airport in Tel Aviv. Since then, with few exceptions, Biden has supported ongoing and enhanced U.S. arms transfers to Israel while at the same time cautioning the Israelis to be careful in their re-

sponses to avoid civilian casualties.

"The Israelis have every right to respond to the vicious attacks on them, not just from the Iranians, but from everyone from Hezbollah to Houthis," Biden said Friday. "But the fact is that they have to be very much more careful about dealing with civilian casualties."

Biden has also ordered the U.S. military to step up its profile in the region to protect Israel from attacks by Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen and Iran itself. In April, and again earlier this week, the U.S. was a leading player in shooting down missiles fired by Iran into Israel.

By contrast, Republican Donald Trump and Netanyahu have had a much more cordial relationship. Trump hosted Netanyahu in July. While president, Trump initiated policy changes that Netanyahu applauded, including recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, moving the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv, recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and rescinding a decades-old U.S. legal determination that Jewish settlements in the West Bank were inconsistent with international law. □



Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a memorandum of cooperation signing ceremony with Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide at the State Department on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and South Korea have tentatively agreed

to a new deal covering the costs of maintaining the American military presence there, the U.S. State Department and South Korean for-

The U.S. and South Korea reach new deal on costs for the American troop presence

ign ministry announced Friday. The agreement, which must still be approved by the South Korean government and ratified by its parliament before taking effect, would see Seoul's contribution rise by 8.3% during the first year of the five-year deal, to \$1.125 billion. Additional increases, capped at 5% per year, would then be applied. There are about 28,500 U.S. forces in South Korea to help deter potential aggression from North Korea and fewer than a handful of major

bases.

"The agreement will be a significant accomplishment for both sides, and will strengthen our alliance and our shared defense," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

He did not detail the costs to South Korea, which were outlined in a simultaneously released statement from the South Korean foreign ministry. The current agreement was not due to expire until next year, but the Biden adminis-

tration had been pushing to complete the "Special Measures Agreement" with South Korea before November's U.S. presidential election, in part to allay South Korean concerns that a possible victory by former President Donald Trump might complicate future negotiations.

During Trump's term, he repeatedly accused South Korea and other U.S. allies of freeloading and suggested he would demand billions of dollars more to extend mutual defense agreements. □

U.S. arranges flights to bring Americans out of Lebanon as others seek escape

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MATTHEW LEE and JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S.-arranged flights have brought about 350 Americans and their immediate relatives out of Lebanon this week during escalated fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, while thousands of others still there face airstrikes and diminishing commercial flights.

In Washington, senior State Department and White House officials met Thursday with two top Arab American officials to discuss U.S. efforts to help American citizens leave Lebanon. The two leaders also separately met with officials from the Department of Homeland Security. Michigan state Rep. Alabas Farhat and Abed Ayoub, executive director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, used the White House meeting to "really drive home a lot of important points about the issues our community members are facing on the ground and a lot of the logistical problems that they're encountering with it when it comes to this evacuation," Ayoub said. Some officials and community leaders in Michigan, home to the nation's larg-



A Greek military transport aircraft carrying Greek and Cypriot citizens evacuated from Lebanon, is seen behind an MEA airlines, after it landed at Larnaca airport, Cyprus, on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

est concentration of Arab Americans, are calling on the U.S. to start an evacuation. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said that was not being considered right now. "The U.S. military is, of course, on the ready and has a whole wide range of plans. Should we need to evacuate American citizens out of Lebanon, we absolutely can," Singh told reporters. Israel has opened a pounding air campaign deep into

Lebanon and a ground incursion in the country's south targeting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group. Iran on Tuesday fired nearly 200 ballistic missiles toward Israel, leaving the region bracing for any Israeli retaliation and fearing an all-out regional war. Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire across the Lebanon border almost daily since the day after Hamas, another Iranian-backed mili-

tant group, attacked Israel on Oct. 7, triggering the war in Gaza.

Other countries, from Greece to the United Kingdom, Japan and Colombia, have arranged flights or sent military planes to ferry out their citizens.

As Israeli bombardments targeting senior Hezbollah leaders shook southern neighborhoods in Lebanon's capital last week, "We could still see, hear and feel everything" de-

spite fleeing to the mountains outside Beirut, said Nicolette Hutcherson, a longtime humanitarian volunteer living in Lebanon with her husband and three children. The only seats Hutcherson's family could find on commercial carriers were for flights weeks away and for thousands of dollars, she said. Ultimately, Hutcherson and her young children joined crowds heading to Lebanon's Mediterranean marinas, finding spots on pleasure boats turned evacuation ships for the nine-hour ride to Cyprus.

Her husband was able to find a single seat out on a plane days later to join them.

Another American family was mourning Kamel Ahmad Jawad, a resident of metro Detroit's Dearborn area, who was killed in southern Lebanon on Tuesday. Family members said he stayed to help civilians too old, infirm or poor to flee.

He had been on the phone with his daughter Tuesday when the impact of a strike knocked him off his feet, his daughter, Nadine Kamel Jawad, said in a statement. "He simply got up, found his phone, and told me he needed to finish praying in case another strike hit him," she said. □

4 voters charged with intentionally voting twice in Michigan primary election

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP)—Four people intentionally voted twice in Michigan's summer primary election, the state attorney general said Friday as she announced felony charges against the suburban Detroit residents as well as part-time employees accused of enabling it to happen. "It's shocking and simply unheard of," Attorney General Dana Nessel said. The charges in St. Clair Shores come a month before the general election in a high-stakes state coveted by presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris and where voter turnout is expected

to be high. "What occurred here cannot be allowed to be repeated in November," Nessel said. "As to election workers, it is imperative that all election staff, volunteers and assistant clerks abide by the laws of this state." She said four people who had already cast absentee ballots for the Aug. 6 primary showed up to vote in St. Clair Shores on that day. It's not legal, Nessel added, to cancel an already-processed absentee ballot on Election Day and then vote in-person. An electronic poll book showed that the four had already voted. But after poll workers consulted with

local election staff, they were still allowed to vote again, Nessel said.

The extra votes did not affect race results, she said. Four voters were charged with voting twice. Three people who were part-time election workers in St. Clair Shores were charged with falsifying election records. Nessel said the motives of the seven were unknown. There's no evidence that they were working together. The state stepped in after Pete Lucido, the Republican local prosecutor in Macomb County, said there was "no malicious or criminal intent" and declined to file charges. Nessel, a Democrat, suggested

Lucido didn't have expertise. "There are so many different procedures that are involved here," she said. "I

think if you're not highly familiar with this, the way that our staff has become, it's easy to make mistakes." □



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel speaks during a press conference, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in Lansing, Mich.

Associated Press

Supreme Court leaves in place two Biden environmental regulations

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
and MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court left in place Friday two Biden administration environmental regulations aimed at reducing industry emissions of planet-warming methane and toxic mercury.

The justices did not detail their reasoning in the orders, which came after a flurry of emergency applications to block the rules from industry groups and Republican-leaning states. There were no noted dissents.

The high court is still considering challenges to a third Environmental Protection Agency rule aimed at curbing planet-warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

The regulations are part of a broader effort by the Biden administration aimed at curbing climate change that includes financial incentives to buy electric vehicles and upgrade infrastructure, and rules tightening tailpipe pollution standards for cars and trucks.

The industry groups and states had argued the EPA overstepped its authority and set unattainable standards with the new regulations. The EPA, though, said



The Supreme Court building is seen, June 28, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

the rules are squarely within its legal responsibilities and would protect the public.

An EPA spokesperson said Friday the agency is pleased that the Supreme Court denied applications to stay the final methane and mercury rules. EPA believes the rule tightening methane emissions from oil and gas drilling will deliver major climate and health benefits for all Americans, while the mercury rule will limit hazardous pollution from coal-fired power

plants, spokesperson Remington Belford said.

The methane rule will build on innovative technologies and solutions that many oil- and gas-producing states and companies are already using or have committed to use, while the mercury and air toxics rule "will ensure that the nation's coal-fired power plants meet up-to-date standards for hazardous air pollutants," Belford said.

Both rules are firmly grounded in the EPA's authority

under the Clean Air Act, he said.

The Supreme Court has shot down other environmental regulations in recent years, including a landmark decision that limited the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in 2022, and another that halted the agency's air-pollution-fighting "good neighbor" rule. The methane rule puts new requirements on the oil and gas industry, which is the largest emitter of the gas

that's a key contributor to climate change. A lower court previously refused to halt the regulation.

Methane is the main component in natural gas and is far more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term. Sharp cuts in methane emissions are a global priority including the United States to slow the rate of climate change.

The methane rule targets emissions from existing oil and gas wells nationwide, rather than focusing only on new wells.

It also regulates smaller wells that will be required to find and plug methane leaks.

Studies have found that smaller wells produce just 6% of the nation's oil and gas but account for up to half the methane emissions from well sites.

The plan also calls for a phased-in requirement for energy companies to eliminate routine flaring, or burning of natural gas that is produced by new oil wells. The states challenging the rule called the new standards "impossible to meet" and said they amounted to an "attack" on the industry. The mercury rule, meanwhile, came after a reversal of a move by the Trump administration. □

Bighorn sheep habitat to remain untouched as Vail agrees to new spot for workforce housing

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

A decade-long saga involving planned workforce housing for the Vail ski resort on land inhabited by Colorado's bighorn sheep has been resolved, with the resort agreeing to build in another part of town.

Vail's town council voted this week to create a new partnership that will lead to more workforce housing for the resort, which has struggled with a chronic shortage for its workers for years. In exchange, Vail Resorts is dismissing its appeal of the town's condemnation of its property in East Vail, which is where the housing project was originally pro-

posed.

As recently as 2019, the town council supported Vail Resorts' plan to build

a 165-bed project at the edge of the sheep habitat in an area known as Booth Heights. But changes in the



A bighorn sheep roams a contentious plot of land in Vail, Colo., on Oct. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

makeup of the council, along with renewed concern about the sheep, delayed the project and led to the town filing to condemn the property to halt the building.

The case divided Vail, which has a population of around 5,600 but becomes one of the world's top ski destinations each winter, with an estimated 1.5 million people visiting each year. It made it hard for business owners to attract employees, and also offered a unique perspective on how difficult it is for any community to agree on how to ensure people of all economic status can work and live together.

"Happy it's over, but it will always be a lost opportunity to help people and nature," Jenn Bruno, a boutique owner in Vail, texted The Associated Press.

Under its blueprint to build at Booth Heights, the resort had proposed extensive mitigation plans for the sheep and their habitat, including a 17-acre "natural preservation area" that was nearly 10 times the size of the construction site.

Under this week's agreement, the town will condemn the Vail Resorts property near Booth Heights and the new construction will take place on the west side of town. □

Pakistan capital locked down to thwart a rally to support ex-leader Imran Khan

By M. AHMED and RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Authorities suspended cellphone service and blocked key roads into Pakistan's capital with shipping containers Friday to try to thwart a rally by tens of thousands of activists seeking the release of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Khan's supporters were trying to march on Islamabad from the northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where Khan's party holds power, defying a ban on rallies imposed this week by the national government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Sharif's interior minister said armed supporters of Khan were among activists trying to reach the capital and warned them to stop, and has said they would be shown "no leniency." Police swung batons and used tear gas to prevent rallygoers from entering capital. □

Sharif's government also deployed paramilitary rangers and additional police and shut schools in Islamabad and the nearby city of Rawalpindi after Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party refused to withdraw its call for the protest.

Videos posted online showed police placing shipping containers on bridges and roads on a key highway near Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Officials said that the provincial government was trying to remove the blockades with heavy machinery.

The protest comes ahead of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Islamabad on Oct. 15, and Pakistani authorities announced they would deploy troops in the capital starting Saturday to secure the meeting. India's foreign ministry confirmed Friday that its external affairs minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, will attend. □



Police officers assemble next to shipping containers placed by authorities to block a road leading to important government buildings in an attempt to prevent supporters of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan from holding a rally seeking his release in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday, Oct. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

Inuit lawmaker asked to leave the podium at Danish Parliament after speaking only in Greenlandic

By JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — A lawmaker representing Greenland in Denmark's Parliament was asked to leave the podium of the assembly after she refused to translate her speech delivered in Greenlandic the Inuit language of the sparsely populated Arctic island into Danish, highlighting strained relations within the Danish Realm.

Aki-Matilda Høgh-Dam, from the social democratic Siumut party, is at the center of a debate about whether lawmakers from Greenland and the Faeroe Islands can speak in their own tongues before the Danish Parliament. The two semi-independent territories each hold two seats in the Folketing in Copenhagen.

During a traditional debate day Thursday, where parties' political affairs spokespeople explain their party's line, Høgh-Dam gave an eight-minute speech in Greenlandic. She had beforehand distributed a translation of her speech to the members of the assembly.

When she had finished, Parliament Speaker Søren



Lawmaker Aki-Matilda Høgh-Dam, representing Greenland, attends the opening of the Folketing, which is also the beginning of a new parliamentary year, at Christiansborg in Copenhagen, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024.

Associated Press

Gade asked her if Høgh-Dam she was going to repeat it in Danish, to which she said no.

Gade told her that "one cannot debate a speech ... if the speech is not also delivered in Danish" and asked her to step down. He added that Høgh-Dam, who is fluent in Danish, had been informed last year that Greenlandic and Faeroese lawmakers can speak in their local tongues if they themselves translate it into Danish immediately afterward. Høgh-Dam said she had no intention of doing that.

Danish, which is taught in Greenland's schools, is the

language in the Copenhagen assembly. Høgh-Dam demands simultaneous interpretation. Gade has said that the Folketing is not geared for that but Greenlandic and Faeroese lawmakers can get extra funds to hire translators.

The other Greenland lawmaker in Denmark Aaja Chemnitz of the left-leaning Inuit Ataqatigiit spoke in Danish Thursday evening. Later, her party said it backed Høgh-Dam's stance.

Greenland was a colony under Denmark's crown until 1953, when it became a province in the Scandinavian country. □

Request for Proposal for Beach Property

Date: September 25, 2024

The owners of the properties consisting of two (2) adjacent parcels located at Spaans Lagoenweg #34 in Pos Chiquito Aruba hereby request proposals for the purchase of this beach front residential property. The property is a long lease land ("erfpacht") located on the inner road through Spaans Lagoenweg in Pos Chiquito, right on a beach strip with a spectacular ocean view. The property is the last beach front property of this size available on the Island.

Property Details:

- **Total size:** 1.240 m²
- **Location:** Spaans Lagoenweg #34, Pos Chiquito Aruba technically known as: (1) Aruba, Third Division, Section G, Number 1027 and (2) Aruba, Third Division, Section G, Number 3542.
- **Property Description:** The construction of the house is in good condition; however, it requires some maintenance. The house consists of three (3) bedrooms, two (2) bathrooms, a kitchen, a spacious living room, a dining room, an indoor patio, a laundry room, and a garage on the first floor. There is also a patio on the second floor.

Proposal Requirements:

Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals, which should include the following information:

1. **Purchase Price Offer:** Clearly state the proposed purchase price in Florin.
2. **Buyer Information:** Include the name and contact details of the buyer or buying entity. Anonymous Buyers will not be considered¹.
3. **Financing Details:** Provide information on how the purchase will be financed, including proof of funds or a bank letter stating the buyer has the means to finance his proposed purchase price.

The appraisal report can be viewed on:

<https://spaanslagoenweg34.relahq.com>. Viewing the property is also possible after making an appointment. To make an appointment or for more information you can contact the office of:

Wix Attorneys at Law
Avenida Millio Croes 101
Telephone: 582 3200
Email: vera@wixlegal.com

Proposals must be submitted in writing no later than Friday, November 8, 2024 at the office of Wix Attorneys at Law. After November 8, 2024, the owners will review all the offers and make a decision which offer will be accepted. All parties will be informed of the final decision within 14 days after November 8, 2024.

Information of the property can be found on:

<https://spaanslagoenweg34.relahq.com>



¹ Offers made through a broker will only be considered if the name of the buyer is disclosed.

Thousands of Jewish pilgrims come to Ukraine for Rosh Hashana despite official warnings

By ILLIA NOVIKOV

Associated Press

UMAN, Ukraine (AP) — Prayer chants and the sounding of traditional ram's horns fill the air in the town of Uman, in central Ukraine, as thousands of pilgrims join an annual gathering to mark the Jewish new year, despite the war against Russia.

Uman, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, is transformed for the celebration of Rosh Hashana. The streets are plastered with signs in Hebrew for the pilgrims who come to pray at the tomb of Rabbi Nachman, the great-grandson of the founder of Hasidic movement.

Despite Ukrainian and Israeli diplomats warning of the security threat, officials told The Associated Press that 35,000 pilgrims made the journey to Uman this year, the same as in earlier years.

Rabbi Moshe Reuven Azman, a leading figure in Ukraine's Jewish community, was one of those who urged international pilgrims not to visit Ukraine due to security concerns but acknowledged that many would still make the trip regardless of the potential risks involved.

"Every year (since Russia's full-scale invasion), I speak on Israeli television and radio,



Orthodox Jews dance at the tomb of Rabbi Nachman, the great grandson of the founder of Hasidic movement, in the town of Uman, 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Ukraine's capital Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024.

and I call on the (Jewish) pilgrims not to come to Ukraine. My primary concern is for the lives of people," he said.

As the war in Ukraine rages for a third year, Russian army fires barrages of drones and missiles at Ukraine almost daily, leaving no region completely safe.

Active combat is taking place along a 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front, as Russian forces press their advantage in the eastern Donetsk region. This year alone, the

Russian army has managed to capture several thousand square kilometers (miles) of Ukrainian territory, with the capture of the city of Vuhledar being their most recent notable achievement.

Nachman Shitrit, 18, who traveled to Uman from Haifa, Israel with his father, said he

had made the pilgrimage over a dozen times.

"The war here didn't scare me from traveling to Ukraine; there's also war where I came from," he told the AP.

This year's pilgrimage comes at an increasingly volatile time in the Middle East. Israel is now engaged in a multifront war that includes the battles with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, attacks from Iran and strikes inside Syria, plus ongoing confrontations with armed militants in the West Bank and occasional attacks launched by Iranian-backed militants in Iraq and by the Houthis in Yemen.

The hostilities posed addi-

Associated Press

tional challenges to some pilgrims travelling to Ukraine this year.

Ukraine closed its air space in February 2022, at the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, forcing visitors to travel overland via other European countries in order to reach Uman.

The United Jewish Community of Ukraine said Wednesday that more than 14,000 pilgrims were unable to travel to Uman, partly as a result of Iran's attack on Israel Tuesday. Iran fired a barrage of nearly 180 missiles, causing cancellation of multiple flights from Israel in an act Iranian officials called retaliation for Israel's recent strikes on Hezbollah.

Meir Shpanier, 23, who travelled from Tel Aviv, said the difficulty of the journey had made the experience more meaningful to him this year. "I managed to get here by a miracle. My travel agent booked airplane tickets from Tel Aviv to Budapest. From there, a Ukrainian driver picked me up, and we drove 22 hours to Uman. But some of my friends had to travel through five countries."

"Because I had to work hard to get here, it means more to me now. I think we're all blessed to be here," Shpanier said. □

EU fishing and farming deals with Morocco failed to include Western Sahara's consent, top court says

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's top court ruled Friday that fisheries

and agriculture agreements reached between the bloc and Morocco five

years ago failed to include consultations with the people of Western Sahara.

Western Sahara sits on the Atlantic coast and has a desert rich in phosphates. Morocco annexed the former Spanish colony in 1975, sparking a conflict with the pro-independence Polisario Front. The United Nations considers it a "non-self-governing territory."

The status of the Western Sahara is among the most sensitive topics in the North African kingdom. Morocco considers the vast territory as its "southern provinces" and fiercely defends against anything it considers to be a threat to its ter-

ritorial integrity.

In its definitive ruling in the case, the European Court of Justice said that for the 2019 EU-Morocco farm and fisheries agreements to enter force, they "must receive the consent of the people of Western Sahara. However, such consent has not been given in this instance."

It said the deals "were concluded in breach of the principles of self-determination and the relative effect of treaties."

The Luxembourg-based court dismissed "in their entirety" legal appeals by the EU's executive branch and the council representing

the 27 member countries. The fisheries agreement laid out where European vessels with Moroccan permits could fish and included Moroccan-controlled waters west of the disputed territory. The four-year accord has already expired, so the court's decision will only influence future agreements. The court acknowledged that the EU institutions had launched a consultation process before concluding the agreements, but said this involved people who were present in the territory, "irrespective of whether or not they belong to the people of Western Sahara." □



Fish is displayed for merchants during an auction at the main port in Dakhla city, Western Sahara, Monday, Dec. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

Nine Lives Aruba Foundation Has 47 Cats Available for Today's Adoption Day

Today is a festive day at Jaburibari 8B, where Nine Lives will host its adoption day in connection with International Animal Day, which was celebrated yesterday, October 4th.

This afternoon from 4 PM to 7 PM, everyone visiting the foundation will receive information from two clinics: Animal Care Clinic Aruba and Veterinary Specialty Hospital Aruba (VSH). Their veterinarians and specialists will be available to clarify any questions that potential adopters may have.

Ms. Zoeyn Conijn from Luna Foundation will also be present because last month, they rescued a dog, and since Luna Foundation was already full, Nine Lives took it in. Once space became available, the dog was transferred back to Luna Foundation.

"We have all kinds of cats—babies, juniors, adult cats, and a variety of colors. Our doors are open so our cats can find a home of their own," said Ms. Geraldine Toro, vice president of Nine Lives.

At this moment, the foundation has many cats, and they are eager for them to be adopted so they can continue helping other cats from the streets. "If someone adopts a cat, we can take another cat off the streets into the foundation."

Normally, Nine Lives holds its Adoption Day every month, but this time they decided to make it special by inviting specialists from the veterinary field and other foundations, as mentioned.

Currently, there are 47 cats at the foundation, and Colony Cats has 110. The cats at Colony Cats are those caught by hotels or restau-



rants that didn't want them. They are trapped, sterilized, and taken to Colony Cats. "Every night, we have volunteers, without fail, to feed the cats. Here we are talking about feral cats, meaning they aren't very friendly, but some are calmer. They live there, they're safe, and they have food and water."

Regarding the adoption process, the

usual adoption fee is 100 florins (\$55), but since yesterday was International Animal Day, they reduced it to 75 florins (\$41). This fee includes deworming medication for baby cats. After six months, Nine Lives contacts the owner to inform them that the cat has reached six months, and they schedule a vet appointment for sterilization. Once the cat is sterilized, it receives a microchip. The fee helps cover part of the sterilization cost, which is usually 125 florins (\$69) for female cats. "It helps us cover a bit of the cost," Toro explained.

Recently, a foundation called Paws United was created, which collaborates with other foundations like Animal Welfare Alliance Aruba (AWA), Luna Foundation, and Nine Lives. Together, they go into neighborhoods to sterilize cats and dogs. In August, they went to Madiki, where they sterilized over 500 cats and dogs in nine days.

In October and November, they will visit the Dakota neighborhood again to continue sterilizing and neutering, helping combat the growth of the cat and dog population.



Regarding the situation of stray cats and dogs, Toro assured that the situation is improving, "but it could be better." "We are seeing more reports from older people, stating that there are at least 20 or 25 cats. The problem is that when the first cat arrives, they don't sterilize it, and within a year, that cat could have babies three times. That's why we are now talking with retirees, asking them to please contact us when they see a new cat so we can sterilize it and not wait until it becomes too large to handle."

There are cases where one house currently has 110 cats and another has 75. "It becomes a lot, especially for retirees who might feel lonely and enjoy the company," she stated.

To conclude, her message for International Animal Day was: "Let's all respect our animals because they also have feelings. They feel too, and remember, always sterilize your pets." □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)

2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually



enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market

Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts

Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila



At Infini, we take pride in offering a unique dining experience that goes beyond just a meal. Our eight-course chef's table menu is a journey through the rich and diverse flavours of Aruba, inspired by our island's culinary heritage and enhanced by locally-sourced ingredients. The highlight of our menu is the final course, Bolo Pretu and Wortel, a modern interpretation of a traditional Aruban dessert paired with carrots, walnut, cream cheese, and the famous black cake. This dish not only reflects our dedication to supporting local producers but also honours a longstanding tradition that holds deep significance in Aruban culture.

The story behind Bolo Pretu: Aruba's traditional black cake

The dish, Bolo Pretu, or black cake, is much more than a simple dessert. Deeply rooted in Aruban and Caribbean history, it is a symbol of celebration, served during weddings, anniversaries, and other special events. Its significance lies not only in its rich flavours but also in its connection to the island's cultural heritage, influenced by African, European, and indigenous traditions. At Infini, this histori-

Discover Infini: Celebrating Aruban Culinary Heritage Through Our Eight-Course Chef's Table Experience

cal importance inspired the creation of our final course, bringing the past into the present through food.

The cultural significance of Bolo Pretu

Traditionally, Bolo Pretu has been a highlight at many of Aruba's significant ceremonies, from religious celebrations to family gatherings. It is often presented at weddings and anniversaries, symbolising prosperity, unity, and festivity. Its dark, rich texture and robust flavour come from a unique blend of ingredients, including fruits soaked in alcohol, which was originally a method of preserving the cake for extended periods—sometimes even years.

In colonial times, the cake was seen as a sign of wealth, reserved for those who could afford its laborious preparation and costly ingredients. Over the centuries, however, it has evolved into a beloved part of everyday Aruban culinary traditions. The recipe is often passed down through families, each generation adding its personal touch while keeping the core elements that make Bolo Pretu distinctive.

The ingredients that make Bolo Pretu unique

At the heart of Bolo Pretu is its complex combination of dried fruits, which are typically soaked for months in rum or cherry cordial. These include cherries, dates, figs, raisins, and prunes, along with an assortment of nuts, such as walnuts, to give the cake its signature dense and moist texture. The preparation

process is intensive, requiring careful attention to detail and time to develop the cake's rich, intense flavours.

Once baked, the cake is soaked again in alcohol, further enhancing its depth and complexity. The result is a dessert that is meant to be enjoyed in small portions due to its powerful taste and the high alcohol content. Each bite offers a journey through layers of flavour, from the sweetness of the dried fruit to the warmth of the rum.

A celebration of Aruba's culinary heritage at Infini

At Infini, our eight-course chef's table menu offers a true reflection of Aruba's diverse culinary heritage. The final course, Bolo Pretu and Wortel, is a tribute to the island's rich history, showcasing how food can transcend generations and bring people together. Through our dedication to using local ingredients and preserving traditional recipes, we create a dining experience that is as meaningful as it is delicious.

For those looking to explore Aruba's culinary past and present in a single meal, Infini provides the perfect opportunity. Each course is crafted with care, and the story behind Bolo Pretu ensures that our guests leave with more than just a taste of the island—they leave with a deeper understanding of its cultural roots. To experience this unique blend of history and flavour, you can reserve a table at Infini by calling 297-699 39 82.□

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside

of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay

before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand

and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!□



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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Angela Stein from Saddlebrooke Arizona, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Aruba Beach Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.



- Aruba's restaurants.
- "We love Aruba Beach Club"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at Caya House, Aruba



At Caya House, located in Palm Beach, we proudly join the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 to October 15. This period is a special opportunity to honor the cultural, historical, and social contributions of Hispanic communities, with a particular focus on the central role that gastronomy plays in expressing cultural identity.

Regional Diversity and the Influence of Hispanic Heritage on Gastronomy

The richness of Latin cuisine is reflected in the diverse dishes that represent the unique characteristics of each region. Every country has its own culinary variations and styles. For example, mole from Mexico is known for its complexity and variety of ingredients, while Argentine chimichurri is famous as a flavorful sauce for grilled meats. These differences highlight how culinary traditions tell stories of their origins and celebrate the cultural diversity within the Hispanic world.

Historical Influence: A Fusion of Flavors

Latin American cuisine is a true fusion of historical influences. Over the centuries, indigenous, African, and European traditions have profoundly shaped the region's gastronomy, resulting in a unique blend of flavors and techniques. From the spices introduced by European colonizers to the traditional cooking methods of indigenous communities, Latin cuisine is a testament to cultural resilience and creativity.

Gastronomic Celebrations During Hispanic Heritage Month

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, food becomes a vehicle for storytelling and uniting communities. Dishes like arepas, pupusas, empanadas, and tamales symbolize this deep connection between cultures and generations. At Caya House, we honor these culinary traditions with a menu that highlights the best of Latin-Caribbean cuisine, offering traditional recipes with a modern twist, carefully crafted by our chefs to surprise and delight our guests.

Culinary Events and Cultural Festivals

During this month, numerous culinary festivals and events take place, inviting people to explore the rich culinary heritage of Spanish-speaking countries. At Caya House, we are proud to offer special menus dedicated to iconic regional dishes, providing an open invitation to enjoy a culinary experience that celebrates the history, culture, and flavors of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Caya House: An Invitation to a Unique Gastronomic Experience

Located at J.E. Irausquin Blvd 372, Noord, Palm Beach, Caya House invites you to join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. We offer a unique dining experience that combines the authentic flavors of Latin-Caribbean cuisine with a warm and vibrant atmosphere.

Hispanic heritage is a fusion of cultures, flavors, and techniques that have enriched global cuisine. At Caya House, we invite you to discover this history through our dishes and celebrate the richness and diversity of Latin gastronomy with us.

Elevate your dining experience at CAYA

In this house, we love to share what we cherish most and because we believe the way to the heart is through the stomach, we're offering a special menu of \$65.

Enjoy a "Puro Sabor" experience with one appetizer, one main course, and one dessert of your choice, with a glass of sparkling wine to make your time at CAYA truly unforgettable.

Come and celebrate with us the joy of sharing good flavors and great company!

Contact:

Caya House Tel: +297 699 39 82 Email: reservation@caya.aw

Shoco Owls Facing Difficult Times and in Need of Funds for Preservation Projects

In a statement, Aruba Birdlife Conservation has announced an urgent need for funds to continue placing artificial nests to preserve the Shoco owls.

In recent years, Shocos (Aruban Burrowing Owls) have faced increasingly severe challenges in finding safe and suitable breeding areas around the island.

Tera Cora, the area behind the Tierra del Sol golf course, was once a high-biodiversity zone and one of the most important breeding grounds for the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia arubensis*), locally known as "Shoco."

In 2019, to improve the chances of survival for the Shoco, the first 20 artificial nests were installed at the Tierra del Sol golf course. The main reason for this was to provide alternative breeding opportunities due to the systematic destruction of their natural nests in Tera Cora by the unregulated use of UTV and ATV activities.



Aruba Birdlife Conservation

More than 90% of their natural nests in Tera Cora have been destroyed over the years, primarily due to reckless off-road vehicle use. It is widely recognized, both locally and internationally, that Aruba's unsustainable tourism, including so-called "adventure" tourism, has taken a heavy toll on the island's environment and biodiversity.



Now, after five years, they are pleased to report that these artificial burrows are making a difference and improving the survival chances of the Shoco owls.

So far, more than 60 artificial burrows have been installed. Their goal is to reach 500 in the coming years by placing them in safe locations around the island to give the Shocos an alternative nesting option.

To achieve this goal, they need funding. As they approach the last quarter of 2024, they are hoping that companies, organizations, clubs, and others will consider including the Shoco Conservation Project in their donation lists. Every contribution makes a difference.

At the beginning of this year, discussions began with the new owners of the golf course about the existing Shoco conservation project. The new owners, the Iberostar group, have agreed to continue supporting the project and are committed to taking it a step further.

Maintenance will be carried out on the existing artificial nests as the golf course undergoes renova-

tions and improvements. Additionally, 12 new artificial nests will be added in secure areas around the golf course, increasing the total to 32.

This specific Shoco conservation project, led by Aruba Birdlife Conservation, will be integrated into the new design and branding of the golf course, incorporating an educational component as part of the overall experience for golfers.

Information about the Shoco conservation project will be available at the pro shop and on social media, helping to raise awareness among visitors, local golfers, and staff, who will be trained to answer the many questions visitors often have.

This initiative will enhance the overall golf experience in Aruba for both visitors and locals while giving the endangered Burrowing Owl a better chance at survival.

The non-governmental organization (NGO) Aruba Birdlife Conservation (ABC) Foundation also regularly raises concerns about environmental protection, as well as cases where nature and wildlife are harmed.

In July, ABC had expressed concerns on their Facebook page about the harm some Shocos are suffering.

The foundation stated that in June, Shocos faced various difficulties—three died from poisoning, one died during road maintenance, and two were hit by vehicles. The NGO noted that these are only the cases they are aware of, and the mortality rate is likely higher since not all incidents are reported to them.

"We are happy when we can help those that survived return to the wild life of Aruba. However, some cases require intensive treatment, which can take more than a year before a Shoco can be released or partially released back into the wild. It requires specialized knowledge and great dedication to reach the point of returning a Shoco to its natural habitat," ABC emphasized.

The photos they published in July depicted a Shoco that had clearly lost sight in one eye, and another Shoco appeared to have partially lost vision in the other eye. ABC explained that Shocos need their sight to find food. If they can successfully do so, they can maintain their nests and take care of their baby Shocos as best as possible. However, when their vision is impaired, it requires more effort from the Shoco to care for itself and its family.

The foundation also shared tips on how people can help prevent accidents that harm the Shocos.

It is important for drivers to be more cautious when near a Shoco nest or when they spot one nearby. Additionally, when engaging in off-road activities with ATVs or UTVs, it's crucial to ensure these vehicles stay on designated paths, as Shoco nests are not easy to spot and are more likely to be damaged or destroyed accidentally. □

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island



(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the



unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests

enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and

it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

**Source and pictures credit to:
"De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.**

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?



The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamento: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booij)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted no time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon

telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in

its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Figure out
- 6 Wanders
- 11 Perfect
- 12 Terrible
- 13 Disk in a setting
- 15 Finish
- 16 Recipe unit
- 17 Spectrum color
- 18 Like cliffs
- 20 Singer Joplin
- 23 Rear ends
- 27 Whole range
- 28 Ring out
- 29 Doled (out)
- 31 Song
- 32 Flower part
- 34 Little rascal
- 37 Trip around the track
- 38 Sty resident
- 41 Formulaic writing
- 44 Detail map
- 45 Jacket flap
- 46 Use the rink
- 47 Midterms and finals

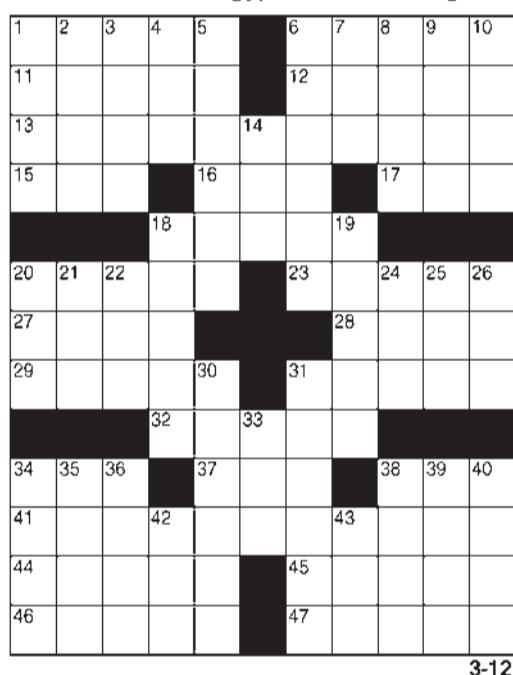
DOWN

- 1 Flank



Yesterday's answer

24 Got together
 25 Butter square
 26 Crafty
 30 Take out
 18 S, M, L, and XL
 19 Eye part
 20 Traffic snarl
 21 Brunched
 22 Undoing word
 35 Brother, of a sort
 36 Leaning tower setting
 38 One of a bear trio
 31 Mark with spots
 33 Golf goal
 34 Sacred bird of Egypt
 43 Indulgent



A X Y D L B A A X R
 is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

K D E M V M Q N Z M L M I L D M C O Y M F

G N H K M I C F X N I Q Q M W X I F

I W N K N T G G N H F M R M C T N X .

— C N V M C X V C I H K X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU ARE REBORN WITH THE ROSES, IN EVERY SPRING. — JUAN RAMON JIMENEZ

Cruise ship Schedule: October 01 - 13 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	01	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C 1
THU	03	WORLD EXPLORER	08.00	23.59	C 1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -
TUE	08	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B 1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

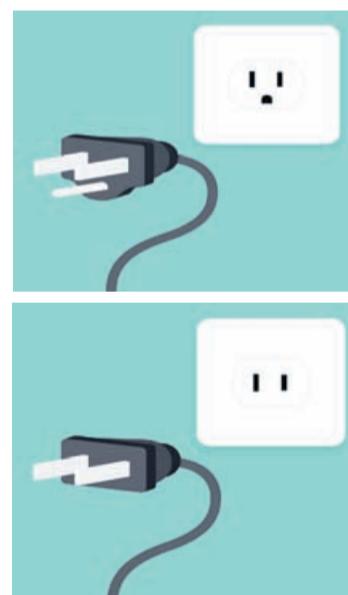
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Honey Dolls

MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
 Pick-up & Delivery

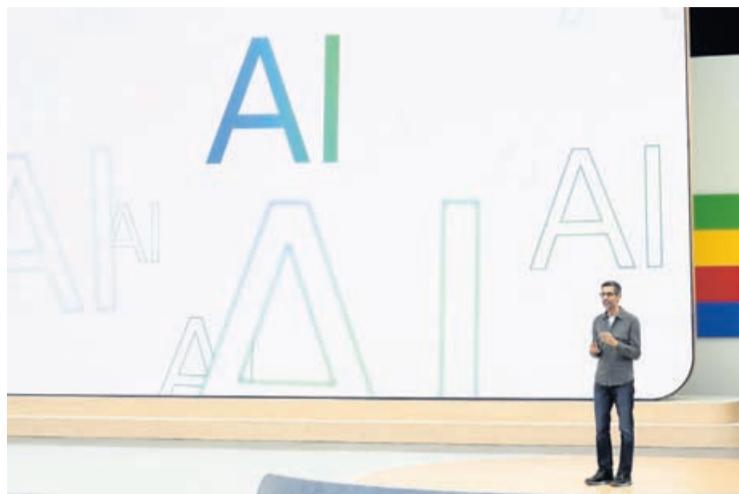
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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Google's search engine's latest AI injection will answer voiced questions about video and photos



Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai speaks at a Google I/O event in Mountain View, Calif., May 14, 2024.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Google is injecting its search engine with more artificial intelligence that will enable people to voice questions about images and occasionally organize an entire page of results, despite the technology's past misadventures with misleading information.

The latest changes announced Thursday herald the next step in an AI-driven makeover that Google launched in mid-May when it began responding to some queries with summaries written by the technology at the top of its influential results page. Those summaries, dubbed "AI Overviews," raised fears among publishers

that fewer people would click on search links to their websites and undercut the traffic needed to sell digital ads that help finance their operations.

Google is addressing some of those ongoing worries by inserting even more links to other websites within the AI Overviews, which already have been reducing the visits to general news publishers such as The New York Times and technology review specialists such as TomsGuide.com, according to an analysis released last month by search traffic specialist BrightEdge.

The same study found the citations within AI Overviews are driving more traffic to highly specialized sites such as Bloomberg.com and the National Insti-

tute of Health. Google's decision to pump even more AI into the search engine that remains the crown jewel of its \$2 trillion empire leaves little doubt that the Mountain View, California, company is tethering its future to a technology propelling the biggest industry shift since Apple unveiled the first iPhone 17 years ago. The next phase of Google's AI evolution builds upon its 7-year-old Lens feature that processes queries about objects in a picture. The Lens option is now

generates more than 20 billion queries per month, and is particularly popular among users from 18 to 24 years old. That's a younger demographic that Google is trying to cultivate as it faces competition from AI alternatives powered by ChatGPT and Perplexity that are positioning themselves as answer engines. □

ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA ARUBA**

How to reach us!

Downtown

ROCOCO PLAZA
MEGA FLEAMARKET
SUNDAY 6 October
Weekly fleamarkt
every Saturday
Open 9am Reservation
Whatsapp only 7415640
Antiqueshop Open 10-1

ARUBA TODAY

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Saoirse Ronan felt happy and settled. That's why she could play an alcoholic in 'The Outrun'

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

The thing about birthing a lamb on camera is you only get one take.

Saoirse Ronan had been getting up at dawn to observe local farmers in Orkney in action, soaking in as much as she could. But soon it was her turn. Not only would she have a life in her hands: She had to look like she'd been doing it her whole life. She was terrified.

It wouldn't be the last time Ronan, 30, would have to step out of her comfort zone to make the "The Outrun" (in theaters Friday), a harrowing and transcendent portrait of addiction and recovery which she produced alongside her husband, actor Jack Lowden. She'd yell and scream and say the meanest things she could think of to her fellow actors.

She'd go from euphoric to inconsolable on a dime in a chaotic, drunken haze. And she'd plough the despairing depths of a very sick person about to relapse.

But after 20 years of acting, these were challenges she was ready for. There's a reason her performance, defining and distinctive on a resume full of memorable characters, from *Briony Tallis* to *Lady Bird*, has garnered comparisons to Gena Rowlands in "A Woman Under the Influence."

It was Lowden who put Amy Liptrot's bestselling memoir in her hands during the pandemic, thinking it might be an interesting role for her.

"We tend to be drawn towards the same kind of material," Ronan said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I trust his taste and opinion. I kind of hold it higher than anyone else's."

They were both at a point where they felt like they had more to give to the movies than just performing. They wanted more responsibility, more agency to help shape the material that



Saoirse Ronan poses for a portrait on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

they loved so much. And so, Ronan and Lowden set off on a journey to make "The Outrun" together. Producing, she said, made her fall in love with filmmaking even more.

"It only made the experience as an actor even richer," Ronan said. "I had history with every single decision that had been made. I was a part of it and there was a piece of me in those decisions."

One of the first decisions that Liptrot, Ronan and German filmmaker Nora Fingscheidt made was to come up with a new name for Amy to create some healthy distance from their real life subject.

They decided on Rona, after an uninhabited island visible from the Liptrot's real farm.

The production would involve an extensive pre-shoot on the Orkney Islands, on a remote corner of Scotland, to get the full scope of its natural splendor across a year, including lambs being born and birds nesting. The film skips around between her childhood, her downfall in London and her return to Orkney, with sublime asides about the history of

the place, the folklore and what's going on in Rona's head.

She finishes the odyssey in isolation on the even smaller island of Papay.

"We wanted to create a poetic film where the images and atmosphere stay with you for a long time after watching," wrote director Fingscheidt.

"A film that takes you on a journey, not just to Orkney or London, but a spiritual journey into the inner world of a young woman, raised under extreme circumstances, searching for her place in life without alcohol."

In the chaotic London portions, in which Rona's relationship with her boyfriend Daynin (Paapa Essiedu) crumbles under the weight of her addiction, Ronan found herself apologizing often to her screen mates. To capture the full extent of Rona's cruelty, Fingscheidt asked Ronan to get mean and personal.

"I've never explored that before with a character to get that cruel and just genuinely mean," Ronan said. "But you really have to kind of go, OK, I'm doing this for the sake of authenticity

and honoring Amy's life. In a way, it felt more respectful to the people who were affected by Amy's illness. Because the cruelty and the meanness and the ugliness that comes out...I've experienced myself. It's incredibly painful. If we were going to do this story and their experience justice, we needed to show all of that."

Behind the scenes Lowden, who is Scottish and is particularly passionate about telling Scottish stories, was a helpful presence who understood the culture and the people. They worked with many locals in the small community of Orkney and Papay which has no hotels. Ronan loved when he was able to be on set. They married in private earlier this year.

"He's one of those enigmas where, yes, he's a brilliant, brilliant actor and is so incredible on screen, but most of the time would much prefer to watch someone else shine," she said.

"He loves being behind the scenes, making sure everyone has what they need and making sure that the set is operating well. He's

more naturally a producer."

After the shoot, Ronan was ready to let Rona go. She had a six-week break and took herself on a train holiday around Europe to shake her off. Then she was due on another set: Steve McQueen's highly anticipated World War II film "Blitz," an AppleTV+ film opening in theaters Nov. 1. She plays a mother searching for her 9-year-old son who was supposed to be safely in the English countryside but has set on a dangerous journey to get back to her.

"I'm buzzing that these two films are coming out at once because they couldn't be more different," Ronan said. "It's very exciting for me to stand by the two of them. They feel very personal for different reasons."

They're also already getting her awards buzz. Ronan has been nominated for four acting Oscars, going back to "Atonement," but has yet to win. This year it's possible she could get both a lead and supporting nomination for the two projects. But she's more focused on getting them out to the world.

And in "The Outrun," which she's seen from development to release, she is proud of a performance that she's not sure she would have been capable of a few years ago.

"I don't think it's necessarily something that I would have had the strength of character to take on years before," Ronan said. "But because I felt so happy and settled in my own life, and professionally speaking, I felt ready to play someone that was as messy and disconnected as she was. I was more than ready to give in to not knowing what this character was going to be, what it was going to turn into."

Plus, she now knows how to birth a lamb.

"You just got to get in there and do it," she laughed. □

Kyle Busch is in danger of snapping his NASCAR-record 19-year winning streak

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) —

Time is running out for Kyle Busch to stretch his remarkable winning streak to 20 consecutive NASCAR seasons with at least one victory. There are only six races remaining on the year as Busch heads to Talladega Superspeedway, where he has won twice in his career. He has won just about everywhere since his 2005 rookie season, collecting 63 Cup Series victories and a pair of championships.

But he lost his seat at Joe Gibbs Racing after the 2022 season because of sponsorship issues and his move to Richard Childress Racing has led to the longest losing streak of his career. Busch

won in his second race with RCR last year, when he notched three victories and made the playoffs.

His last win, though, came at Gateway outside St. Louis in June 2023 and his losing streak is at a career-worst 51 races headed into Sunday. He didn't qualify for the playoffs, and now he is just trying to keep his season winning streak intact.

He has a pair of runner-up finishes this year and lost a three-wide race to the finish line by a mere 0.007



Kyle Busch interacts with spectators while walking down a runway during driver introductions before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Aug. 24, 2024, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

seconds at the start of the season in a trio of near misses. But it was last week's 19th-place finish at Kansas, where he started third and led 26 laps, that left the future Hall of Famer shell-shocked at how far things have fallen. Busch's 19 consecutive years with at least one victory is a NASCAR record, and, across all three of the national series, he has notched 231 wins. He thought a win was within reach at Kansas un-

til he spun while passing a lapped car to end his chance at victory.

"I'm numb," Busch said on pit road at Kansas. "I don't know what to do."

Since his last win, Busch has only 11 top-five finishes, and as RCR has suffered a sharp decline this season, Busch tallied five DNFs in a seven-week span. He's had his chances: Busch finished second to Harrison Burton by 0.047 seconds at Daytona in August, then lost the

next week to Chase Briscoe at Darlington Raceway by 0.361 seconds.

With those two wins, Burton and Briscoe claimed the final two spots in the playoff field and kept Busch out of championship contention.

Busch was hired by Richard Childress after Tyler Reddick shocked the organization by signing with 23XI Racing a full year before his contract expired. Childress had every intention of keeping Reddick in the No.

8 Chevrolet through 2023, but with Busch unable to put together a deal to stay with Gibbs and available, Childress released Reddick early and snagged Busch at a discounted rate.

Reddick thought that Busch — the closest driver in attitude to the late Dale Earnhardt — would be a perfect fit with Earnhardt's old team owner.

"I feel competition-wise, I wouldn't have seen the struggles coming," said Reddick, who won NASCAR's regular-season title with 23XI. "I do remember, at times, we were hit or miss (at RCR). There were tracks we struggled at, there was work to do at tracks we struggled at. "But it seems they've been struggling more times than not, which

is not what you would expect out of that group, or out of Kyle Busch," Reddick continued. "It's just that nothing has gone Kyle Busch's way this year. It's been really crazy to watch that unfold."

Busch acknowledged earlier this year that NASCAR's cutback on practice time has hurt his ability to adapt to the Next Gen car and find the speed he's seeking and the comfortable feel he needs inside the

NFL says the preseason saw its fewest number of concussions since tracking started

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL saw its fewest number of concussions in the preseason since tracking started in 2015.

There were 44 concussions in practices and games, a decrease of about 24% from last year.

"The reason for that change has certainly to do with changes to rules, changes to equipment, including the Guardian Cap, as well as a host of other efforts we've made over the years to drive the numbers down," said Jeff Miller, the NFL executive vice president overseeing player health and safety.

The league's revamped kickoff rule led to fewer injuries overall but there were some concussions on the play.

"We saw a couple more concussions on the dynamic kickoff than we thought we would see," Miller said. "We haven't seen any concussions in the first three weeks of

the dynamic kickoff in the regular season." Nearly 99% of players wore top-performing helmets, including more than 250 players wearing helmets that the league says provide as much and in some cases more protection than a helmet paired with a Guardian Cap.

There was a nearly 50% reduction in concussions in the preseason among players wearing the Guardian Cap in mandated sessions versus the pre-mandate average.

The injuries were back in the forefront when Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa sustained his fourth diagnosed concussion in five years during Week 2.

"I know that he is seeing top experts," NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills said.

Lower-extremity strains were down by 27% in 2024 compared to the 2021 preseason, the year before the acclimation period was introduced. □



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa talks on the sidelines during the second half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Under MLB's new playoff format, a little rest isn't always the best

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Baseball Writer

Shohei Ohtani has mashed 100 mph fastballs for homers, stolen bases against some of the game's best catchers and recently wrapped up one of the best regular seasons in Major League Baseball history. Now the Japanese superstar and his Los Angeles Dodgers have to face something that's arguably even more daunting.

A five-day break.

Since MLB's most recent 12-team playoff format took effect in 2022, five of the eight top seeds have lost in the Division Series, unable to capitalize on the supposed reward of earning a bye through the Wild Card Series. This year, the Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies have the top two seeds in the National League, while the New York Yankees and Cleveland Guardians are in the same position in the American League. That's given all of them five days to prepare for the best-of-five Division Series that begin Saturday. Sure, a few days to heal bumps and bruises while other teams fight it out is nice. But there's also a downside.

"It's not a vacation," Phillies second baseman Bryson Stott said following a workout earlier this week.



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper looks on from the dugout before a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

Maybe more than any other professional sport, baseball is one that relies on rhythm and routine. MLB squeezes 162 regular-season games into 187 days over six months, meaning teams are playing games almost daily from April to September. Other than the All-Star break in July, there's never two scheduled days off in a row.

Five days is a relative eternity. And it hasn't always been a good thing.

"It's a trade-off," said Chris

Antonetti, Cleveland's president of baseball operations. "The benefit is you get time off. The downside is you're not in the major league environment facing live major league pitching in the normal cadence that you would be during the season. "But on balance, I think I'd still take the trade-off and want the bye." The Guardians have played simulated games the past three days to keep fresh. On Wednesday, they played in an empty Pro-

gressive Field with crowd noise piped in, giving it the same aura as the pandemic-marred 2020 season.

"What we've tried to do is be really deliberate this week about the environments we're creating to keep our guys ready and ready to compete on Saturday," Antonetti said.

The Yankees are one of the teams that have had success under the current playoff format, winning their 2022 Division Series against the Guardians fol-

lowing a five-day layoff. Manager Aaron Boone said last week that part of his plan was to bring some of the organization's minor leaguers to New York so there were fresh arms for hitters to face while they wait for Saturday.

"We'll do our best to prioritize taking advantage of the rest, which I'm sure several guys at this time of the year will benefit from," Boone said. "But we're also trying to make sure we keep that mental edge and keep guys as sharp as we possibly can with live looks."

The Dodgers are the poster child for what can go wrong following a long break in October. They were the top NL seed in 2022 but lost in four games to the San Diego Padres. Last season, they also earned a bye before getting drilled by the Arizona Diamondbacks in a three-game sweep.

Now Los Angeles is back in the same position.

The Dodgers are in a good spot in many ways they've got one of the game's best offensive lineups with Ohtani, Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman, and have clinched home-field advantage throughout the playoffs thanks to a 98-64 record in the regular season. □

Aaron Judge edges Shohei Ohtani for Baseball Digest player of the year

NEW YORK (AP) — Aaron Judge won the Baseball Digest/Inside Edge major league player of the year award Friday, beating out Shohei Ohtani in a very close vote.

Both superstars were tabbed first on 12 of 24 ballots. But the New York Yankees outfielder also received 12 second-place votes, while the Los Angeles Dodgers slugger was chosen third on a pair of submissions.

Kansas City Royals shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. garnered the other two second-place votes and came in third.

Detroit Tigers ace Tarik Skubal was selected the

sport's top pitcher, and Cleveland Guardians closer Emmanuel Clase was a unanimous pick for reliever of the year in balloting by a panel of baseball writers and broadcasters that included several former players, managers and executives.

Judge took the same prize in 2022. Ron Guidry (1978) and Derek Jeter (2006) are the only other Yankees to win.

Ohtani has finished second each of the past three years after winning in 2021. Atlanta Braves star Ronald Acuña Jr. was the winner last season.

Judge led the majors in

2024 with 58 home runs, 144 RBIs and a 1.159 OPS, propelling the Yankees to an AL East title. He batted .322 and scored 122 runs.

Ohtani had 54 homers, 130 RBIs and a 1.036 OPS as the Dodgers won the NL West in his first year with the team after signing a record \$700 million contract in free agency.

He also stole 59 bases producing the first 50-50 season in big league history and batted .310 with an MLB-best 134 runs.

The two-way phenom didn't pitch this year, appearing exclusively at designated hitter while recovering from his second major



Aaron Judge waves to fans after the New York Yankees clinched the American League East title, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

elbow surgery.

Skubal won the pitching Triple Crown in the American League, going 18-4 while leading the circuit in wins, ERA (2.39) and strikeouts (228) in 192 innings.

He received 18 first-place votes to five for fellow left-

hander Chris Sale of the Atlanta Braves, who won the pitching Triple Crown in the National League at 18-3 with a 2.38 ERA and 225 strikeouts in 177 2/3 innings. Philadelphia right-hander Zack Wheeler got the other first-place vote. □